

**Scientist Recruitment Initiative
RWU Proposal**

Name of Proposal Contact: Robert Ross
RWU Title: Wood Engineering and Drying Systems Design Criteria
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Name and contact points of proposed position supervisor: Robert Ross

Position title/discipline of proposed position: Wood Engineering/Drying

Brief description of proposed RWU/graduate research supported through the position:

The mission of RWU 4719 is threefold: 1) to develop design criteria for designing wood structures, 2) to develop environmentally friendly wood drying systems, 3) to develop grading, sorting and assessment technologies for wood materials.

The RWU currently conducts multi-discipline research with a wide range of cooperators. We have studies on-going at sites throughout the United States. The technical breadth and complexity of these studies varies considerably. For example, we recently began a series of studies aimed at investigating ways to assess the quality of wood in trees. In contrast, we recently conducted an assessment of the condition of timbers in a historic structure to assist local community leaders to determine whether to raze the building.

Desirable academic qualifications of the student recruit: B.S. or M.S. in Engineering Science, Chemical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Engineering Mechanics, Forest Products.

Colleges/universities (beyond those identified in the Service-wide multicultural work force initiatives such as the Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, and the Persons with Disabilities Initiatives) to be contacted for potential recruits/applicants: Oregon State University, Washington State University, Virginia Polytechnic University, Mississippi State University, Michigan Technological University.

Potential colleges/universities to provide graduate education: Same

Brief description of the community environment at the sponsoring work unit (including housing, transportation, and recreational opportunities, ethnic breakdown):

The Forest Products Laboratory (FPL), a world leader in research on wood and its use, is located on the University of Wisconsin campus in Madison. The University is one of the top research institutions in the Nation, and FPL researchers cooperate closely with University colleagues and occasionally become adjunct professors. The Laboratory's 21-acre site is within easy walking distance of a large lake, jogging and biking paths, city and campus bus lines, sports facilities, restaurants, retail stores, and residential neighborhoods. Parking at the FPL is free.

This position offers the opportunity to conduct fundamental research toward the development of environmentally benign technologies consistent with the practice of sustainable forestry. As a permanent Federal position, it offers a full package of benefits including health and life insurance, pension, and tax-deferred investment plan.

Madison is the second-largest city in Wisconsin (pop. 190,000) and is within a half-day's drive of Milwaukee, Chicago, and Minneapolis/St. Paul. As the capital of Wisconsin, Madison provides a rich and diverse educational, cultural, recreational, and political setting. The city is surrounded by lakes, parks, and forests and offers a variety of year-round recreational opportunities. In 1996, Money Magazine named Madison the "Number One Best Place to Live in America."

Proposed temporary housing options for the student while working away from the campus:

None needed. Sponsoring unit located adjacent to University of Wisconsin campus.

Brief explanation of how this proposal supports the Scientist Recruitment Initiative: The consumption of solid wood products, particularly engineered wood products and components, continually increases. Recent decision to reduce or eliminate harvesting from federal lands has placed an increasing emphasis on the optimum uses of wood harvested. Forest Service R&D is continually approached to provide scientific guidance and leadership in this field. Possible retirements in the next two years make it imperative that we begin efforts to replace our scientist expertise in this field now. The best approach to this situation is to train a new scientist under the mentoring of the world-class scientists currently working within the RWU.

Station priority of proposal: Priority 1 _____ Priority 2 ☒

I understand acceptance of this proposal will result in a commitment to hire the student into a full-time permanent scientist position at my unit upon successful completion of the program.

Signature

Date